

"Within Prison Walls."

Wins Fame Behind Prison Walls--Remarkable Experience of a Brilliant Colored Man.

By An Insider
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"WITHIN PRISON WALLS."
(Editor's Note: "Within Prison Walls" in this issue was written by a young colored man, of good family and training, who for obvious reasons is withholding his real identity and who due to his ability, served (during a course of ten years) in his positions (as an inmate) one of which has never been filled by any other inmate of any race.

During this series he will dwell intimately on certain phases of prison life that are rarely, if ever, disclosed to the public.)

(Continued from last week.)

This however was due to lack of evidence and not fact. The loss still remained. Simultaneously the death of Warden Russell occurred and deputy warden Catlin was temporarily in charge of the prison and it was due to his iron rule and squareness that he had become known as "square-deal dep" a cognomen that he justly deserved. Mr. Catlin, for that was his name, insisted upon a thorough investigation and household cleaning and if any crookedness was going on in the front office he insisted upon it being purged thoroughly.

WANTED THEM DISMISSED

In doing so he insisted upon the dismissal of every official in the front office. Before the investigation had gone far, the newly elected Governor, Mr. A. J. Groves, appointed Mr. Catlin Warden. However, Mr. Catlin would not take full possession of the front office and administrative end of the business until the investigation had been completed and confined his efforts to the disciplinary end, leaving the administrative end to the public accountants who had been placed in charge by the prison board of control. After a few months of such administration the board appointed Mr. Anderson, one of the accountants, as chief clerk, responsible only to the board until its findings were complete. It was Mr. Catlin's desire, possibly urged upon him through the moral support of Mrs. Catlin, that I secure a front office appointment and while he had the authority to place me there he did not care to do so without the approval of Mr. Anderson.

AN UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY

The opportunity however came unexpectedly for both of us. The girl stenographer had been on her vacation and Mr. Anderson had an accumulated lot of correspondence that he wished to clean up and suggested to the warden that they engage an additional stenographer for a few days till the regular one returned. The warden told him that he had a young man inside the prison who could do the work quite as satisfactorily if he wished to try him. The chief clerk assented and I was sent for. By that time I had gained the good wishes of most of the officials and when the Hall-master came after me he told me to dress up in my Sunday best and go into the front office to work, something that was unheard of at that time. I hurriedly dressed and was speedily passed through the gates to the front office where in the hall the warden was waiting for me. He told me that the chief clerk had some stenographic work for me to do temporarily but for me to do my best as it meant a possibility of my remaining there for good. This I had all intentions of doing anyway. I took the clerk's dictation for a couple of hours, described and transcribed in quick order and returned the completed work to the clerk's desk and offered to return to my cell when the clerk was so agreeably surprised with the quickness and quality of my work that he asked me to do a little "bidding" for him if I knew how. Certainly I knew how and did that work in equal dispatch with the result that what started as temporary work continued as permanent.

A NEW DESK FOUND

The regular stenographer soon returned and a new desk was found for me and as fast as I showed capability of doing any portion of the work same was assigned to me with the result, that being the only one in the front office who also understood the factory end, it was a matter of a few weeks before I was handling all the orders of the overall factory, which at that time was their principal industry, and along this line it was up to me to devise sales plans, both direct by mail and through traveling representatives and to OK and put through all orders received. In this capacity, with added responsibilities, I continued for some years, proving myself of considerable value to the prison and incidentally advancing my own interests to the point that eventually won for me another chance in life which will be duly stated in its proper chronological order.

"Gypsy Bob" was a nowade sort of fellow, actually born in a prison, where his mother was serving time for killing her paramour, and himself had been in and out of reform

school and prison so continuously that a prison sentence became to him only a raven of refuge for that period of time. Strange as it may seem however he could always create a following amongst simpler minded crooks who looked to him as a leader and in and around Detroit he had justly become known as a leader of a gang of men who were desperately sought after by the law. As always the case his gang eventually fell and one of the weakerminded split the beans" or in other words confessed to their depredations.

WAS INFURIATED

This, of course, infuriated Gypsy Bob and when they were all sentenced to the state's prison the two of them agreed to meet on the first of the ensuing year in the prison yard and battle it out between them. Just two days before the first and keeping with Gypsy Bob's kind he demonstrated the streak that was in him to always "cheat", not only the law but in all matters pertaining to his own welfare and coming from the dining hall one evening he stole up behind his former buddy and without warning stabbed him so fatally that he later died in the hospital. For this brutal assault Bob got life in Marquette and was transferred there the week after the writer first arrived there. The writer and Gypsy Bob were always good friends. Why shouldn't we be? I was doing time with him.

COULD MAKE FRIENDS

I hadn't anything personally against him and I possessed the faculty of making friends with all types. From Gypsy Bob I learned a good deal about a side of life that I otherwise would have never known and from me Bob learned a great many points that he could find useful. If anything Bob was shrewdly cunning and possessed an extraordinary amount of "mother wit." He was not a type that you would call a "sneaker" but he immediately recognized conditions as he saw them in Marquette Prison and having life to do he realized that he must lay up to Warden Russell in order to help himself. Others realized the same condition but to yield either to their pride or principle to secure the desired end. However Bob did. I can say truthfully that I don't believe he ever caused anyone else any trouble in reaching his end but he did play up to the Warden in his peculiar manner. He pretended to show that never before in his life had he been understood.

INTERESTED IN HIM

Never before did he ever have half a chance, that Warden Russell was the only one who ever took an interest in him and tried to show him the better side of life. So real did he play his part that the Warden fell for his mannerisms and it was not long before the Warden gave Bob the very best openings in the prison, merely to prove to his own satisfaction, that he could do with a desperate killer under his humane system of administering penology. Bob secured even in his first and second year of a life sentence every privilege that the prison afforded. He became librarian and official photographer at which he could legitimately make from fifty to one hundred dollars a month. He had the privilege of wearing outside clothes of going fishing and to picnics, outside the walls on Sundays and holidays. Bob was also shrewd enough to never betray the trust imposed in him, at least not at that stage of the game. By such actions he won the implicit confidence of the Chairman of the Pardon Board, who also had a personal interest in Bob and for political reasons would go to him as an example of what modern and enlightened penology would do to the most hardened. Through all these maneuvers the deputy warden however saw through and thought of Bob only as one more lifer who had sufficient personality and common horse sense to prey upon the weakness of the Warden and reap the fruits therefrom.

Bob was shrewd enough to sense the real feelings between himself and the deputy and then shortly after the Warden died and the deputy had been appointed Warden Bob figured that his "reign of power" as Bob would often express it, would come to an end.

THE NEW WARDEN

The new Warden told him point blank though that he would not deprive him of any privilege within the prison but that his pilgrimages outside the walls would have to cease as he was not entitled to such privileges that men who had been there ten and fifteen years could not receive. Even such a compromise split defeat to Bob. One evening shortly after Bob was missed from his cell at the last count nine o'clock he being excused from all other counts, and it afterwards developed that under the cover of darkness he had hid out and climbed over the wall to freedom which did not last long however as within a couple of days he was caught and back in his cell. Even then he was not placed in the "bull-pen" as was customary, being merely locked in his own cell.

LOST JOB

When his term of punishment had

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exploded he lost his "political" job however and was put to work in the overall shop. He immediately began refuge for what he took as his dethronement of power. To further his end he had to gain and take into his confidence others, chief of whom there was a real bad man named "Perry" who had once escaped the noose and twice escaped from state prisons in other states. Perry was a genuine bad man and one who had taken several desperate chances to escape from Marquette. A more desperate man there was not in Marquette Prison. Bob confided in Perry holding up a supposed chance to escape which brought the wholehearted support of Perry. With this pair others augmented themselves.

THE GREAT TRAGEDY

The day of the coupe came and as the writer was within a few feet of the entire tragedy same ill be related as it comes back to the memory of one who has tried to forget the most gruesome sight ever witnessed by him. As was the custom on a Sunday morning the prison populace was sitting in the chapel enjoying the regular moving pictures when within the darkened hall and but a few yards from the entrance the writer, some figures moved in the dark and when opposite the writer to the right one of them blurted out "Not a—soul move or you are dead birds." The Warden and his deputy as well as their custom were sitting in easy plush seats to the right of the auditorium and within a few feet of the writer. It was the unsuspecting purpose to steal upon the unsuspecting Warden in the darkness, stab him to death and return to their seats before the lights were turned on, at least that was Bob's idea. Perry thought however that it meant a jail-delivery and that the Warden would be forced to lead them out of the prison.

TURNED ON THE LIGHTS

At the first outcry of Bob the prison electrician turned on the electric lights and there gleamed in Bob's hand some glittering instruments which all took to be automatic which not suite a few believed to be plentifully supplied within the prison. The deputy warden immediately came to the defense of his superior officer whom he saw was about to be attacked and being an elderly man and as spry as he had been a score of years before he was quickly bested in the affray with knife wounds in his back that lead to his death a few hours thereafter. His son who was sitting nearby came to his dad's rescue and without any implement of defense put up a fight that took all the ingenuity of Bob and his two assistants and their weapons to cast him aside with more knife punctures than it seemed humanly possible for any one man to endure and yet live.

DARTED FOR THE STAIRS

In the meantime the Warden realized his predicament and darted for the stairs when his departure was noticed and the attackers immediately sloped upon him battling their way down the stairs. Those of us who were eye-witnesses and able to do so followed down the stairs until we had reached the floor when this writer was grabbed on each wrist by sympathizers of Bob and commanded to go no further and standing there in immediate prospect of death the most brutal sight was forced upon the writer that words within the writer's range would not enable him to properly depict. The Warden rushed for the gate leading to the guard room and rushed for the gate leading to the west cell block shouting at the guard tending the locks to lock the gate after him.

(To be continued)

WIFE WANTED

Map, 39, wants a wife. One with a little means as a partner in a small business; not over 35 or under 25; must be refined and also must have a sound mind; with no children. She must be neat.

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MONEY FOR CLIFTON NEAL

Clifton Neal, aged 23, left Madison N. J. in April 1918. He is a missing heir and if he immediately communicates with Hester Neal, of 11 Central Avenue, Madison, N. J. or Lieut. William J. Ryan of Madison Police Department, he will receive a good sum of money.

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Dr. Fred Palmer's Skin Whitener Preparations—four in all—Skin Whitener, Skin Whitener Soap, Skin Whitener Powder and Hair Dresser—may be had from almost any toilet goods counter serving race people, but be sure you get the genuine by insisting upon Dr. Fred Palmer's, and if your dealer cannot supply you, they will be sent direct from the laboratory upon receipt of one dollar. If you want to try before you buy, send four cents in stamps for free samples of Skin Whitener Ointment, Skin Whitener Face Powder and Skin Whitener Soap, addressing Dr. Fred Palmer's Laboratories, Department A-374, Atlanta, Ga.

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BYRD GOES AFTER LYNCHERS

It appeared that Governor Byrd was dilatory in action against the mob that killed Raymond Bird, a Negro, while he lay asleep on his cot in the Wytheville jail, it was because the executive's views in the matter were not understood. No one was more shocked at the outrage than he; no one was more interested than he in seeing the perpetrators of this crime brought to the bar of justice. This interest was exemplified when he sent two lawyers, one of them an Assistant Attorney General of Virginia, to assist the grand jury in its investigation. Governor Byrd believes in community government. He hesitates to interfere in local affairs until it is clearly demonstrated that the State must step in to vindicate the majesty of the law.

Again the Governor has revealed his desire to see justice done in the Wytheville lynching case. This time he has offered a reward of \$1,000, supplementary to one of \$100 offered by the Board of Supervisors of Wythe County, for the arrest and conviction of a single member of the mob responsible for the death of Raymond Bird. This is an unusually large amount to put up as a stimulus to citizens and officials in going after criminals. It is a clear indication that the Governor realizes the enormity of the offense committed by the Wythe County hoodlums and is determined that they shall pay for the stain they have placed on the name of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In the meantime, local authorities are zealous in the pursuit of clues which may lead to the arrest of men who carried out the lynching.

It is unfortunate that this thing should have happened. It is doubly unfortunate that there should have been two cases of mob violence, and possibly a third in Virginia within a short period of time. Occurrences of this sort leave a bad impression on us outside the State. We know, but strangers, perhaps, do not know, that here in Virginia such lawlessness is abhorrent to all respectable and all self-respecting persons. It causes decent citizens to blush for shame. Members of mobs are doubly criminal: They violate the law and they bring the name of their State—a State jealous of its reputation—into disrepute.

Governor Byrd reveals determination to break up mobbery in Virginia. It is to be hoped that all citizens and all local officials will back him to the limit in this determination. (Richmond, Va., Times Dispatch, Sept. 11, 1926.)

NATIONAL "Y" MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Colored Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States will celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the initial gift of Julius Rosenberg to buildings for colored men and boys by a nation-wide appeal for a capacity membership. This will mean the securing of at least 5,000 new members besides the thousands of existing members. The campaign will run from September 15th to 25th. There will be a competition between the 68 city associations of the country to determine the one that most nearly approximates a fully rounded capacity.

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If so, call and see L. J. HAYDEN, Manufacturer of Pure Herb Medicines, 224 West Broad Street. My medicines will relieve you or no charge, no matter what your ailment, sickness or affliction may be and restore you to perfect health. I use nothing but herbs, roots, barks, ginseng, balsams, leaves, seed berries, flowers and plants in my medicines. They have relieved thousands that have given up to die.

MY MEDICINES CURE THE FOLLOWING DISEASES: Heart Disease, Blood, Kidney, Bladder, Piles in any form, Vertigo, Quinsy, Sore Throat, Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Constipation, Rheumatism in any form, Pains and Aches of any kind, Cough, Bronchial Troubles, Skin Diseases, all Itching Sensations, Female Complaints, LaGrippe, Pneumonia, Ulcers, Carbuncles, Tolls, Cancer in its worst form without use of knife or instrument, Eczema, Pimples on face and body, Diabetes of Kidneys, Bright's Disease of Kidneys. My medicines relieve any disease, no matter what nature, or your money refunded.

Medicines sent anywhere. For full particulars, write, send or call on L. J. HAYDEN, 224 West Broad Street.

Richmond, Va., July 8, 1915.
A perfect cure has been effected by L. J. Hayden's Pure Herb Medicines. After waiting thirteen years and have not suffered from the horrible disease, Gravel, I desire to make a statement to L. J. Hayden:

Thirteen years ago twelve leading physicians of my city treated me for Kidney trouble and gravel without the desired benefit. These doctors advised me to be operated on, as that was the only chance for me. I was advised to go and get some of L. J. Hayden's Herb Medicine and try before being operated on. I did so, and in twenty-four hours after using his medicines, I passed at least a half dozen gravel, some as big as a large pea. Since that time I have not suffered with the gravel. I highly recommend L. J. Hayden's medicine to all suffering humanity. I am,
J. A. PAGE,
4 Auburn Ave., Richmond, Va.

IMPROVEMENT NOTED AT ONCE

Mr. L. J. Hayden,
224 West Broad Street,
Richmond, Va.
I received your treatment O. K., and I have started to taking it already a few days, and it has already begun to improve my ailment so I am sending to you for one more bottle of medicine for the blood. I have spoken to many of my friends and they say they are going to send for a treatment. I think it is a great remedy. I do not suffer with my pains as I used to and my appetite is just fine and I sleep much better every night and feel fine

ity membership taking into account the quality as well as quantity of service the association is capable of giving the membership.

In the past 15 years the membership of city associations has increased 400 per cent while the valuation of property has grown from less than a half million to three and a half million. Last year there were 137,000 men and boys in attendance upon religious meetings, and 26,900 at noon school meetings. Personal interviews numbering 8,287 were conducted, 663 men and boys decided to join Christian churches, 355 were led to join Christian churches. Thirty-five Hi-Y clubs, 10 state older boy conferences, and 20 summer camps helped the boyhood of the Race to cleaner and more cheerful lives.

Evidence of the esteem in which the Y is held as a character-building force is seen in the recent gift of a trust fund of \$100,000 by a white friend, George H. Matthews of Buffalo, to be used for community work among colored boys.

H. S. Dunbar is chairman of the membership campaign committee.

Tunney, The Champion.

(Continued from Page 1)

he conceded an even break. In both of these it was more a case of Tunney's cautiousness than Dempsey's own attack that affected the scoring.

Dempsey entered the ring a 4 to 1 favorite, backed as heavily as any champion in history. Experts had proclaimed him fit, in spite of his three year lay-off, but except for a gallant stand and a few flashes of his old self, he was outclassed.

Dempsey was far from the furious fighter, the "Tiger Man," who smashed his way to sensational victories over Jess Willard, Georges Carpentier and Louis Firpo. Gone was the devastating punch, the furious aggressiveness that marked him as one of the most feared men in the ring. The champion's downfall, in the disappointment of his showing, was reminiscent of the defeat of James J. Jeffries by Jack Johnson, in the first heavyweight battle. Tex Rickard ever promoted, in 1910, Dempsey, like Jeffries, went into the ring a big favorite, only to exhibit little championship fighting qualities.

Chiefly because of Dempsey's lethargy and Tunney's intermittent cautiousness, the bout had few thrills, few spectacular moments of the sort that have punctuated most of Dempsey's battles since he dethroned Willard on July 4, 1919. There were no knockdowns nor the semblance of any except for one or two occasions when the fighters each slipped on the soaked and slippery surface of the ring.

(Preston News Service.)
Charlotte, S. C., Sept. 16.—The Peoples' Federation Bank, of this city, did not open its doors Wednesday on orders of the state bank examiner. The reason given for closing the bank was that it was unable to realize on its receivables in sufficient amounts to meet its current demand. It had deposits amounting to about \$200,000.

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Yours truly,
MRS. CHARLES EBLING,
Dauberville, Pa.